

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/C:AMISAACS:MG

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S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T STATE 244505

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM, MASS, UNGA

SUBJECT: CHILEAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL, OCTOBER 30

1. CHILEAN AMUASSADOR HEITMANN REVIEWED VARIOUS ISSUES WITH DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN AND OTHER DEPT OFFICERS ON OCTOBER 30. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. ARMS REQUESTS: PRIMARY PURPOSE OF HIS CALL, HEITMANN SAID, WAS TO REQUEST US RESPONSE TO CHILEAN ARMS REQUESTS. DESCRIBED CHILEAN IMBALANCE VIS-A-VIS PERU AS "DESPERATE." AS CONSEQUENCE, IMPERATIVE GOC KNOW ONCE AND FOR ALL WHETHER USG WOULD APPROVE REQUESTS FOR TANKS AND TOW AND, IF SO, WHEN ITEMS WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE. OTHERWISE GOC WOULD HAVE TO "TAKE OTHER MEASURES" TO MEET ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS. HEITMANN EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT EVENTUAL AMENDMENTS TO FOREIGN AID BILL MIGHT HAVE RETROACTIVE EFFECT. SHLAUDEMAN NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR POPPER HAD INFORMED GOC OCTOBER 9 THAT WE WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT FAVORABLE RESPONSE ON TANKS AND TOW'S WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT CONGRESSIONAL

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COMMITTEES HAD OFFERED VARIOUS CHILE AMENDMENTS TO FAA,

BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT ULTIMATE OUTCOME.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS; SHLAUDEMAN STRESSED INESCAPABLE LINK BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND CONGRESSIONAL CLIMATE FOR CHILE MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT

GOC'S DECLARATION OF READINESS TO RELEASE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF POLITICAL DETAINEES WAS HELPFUL, BUT POTENTIALLY FAVORABLE IMPACT HAS BEEN UNDERCUT BY GOC DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING OFFER. HE HOPED GOC WOULD FIND WAY TO RELEASE MOST OF THE REMAINING PRO-ALLENDE VIPS IT HOLDS. WHAT GOC NEEDED TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE IN US WERE DRAMATIC MEASURES IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. HEITMANN REJOINED THAT GOC HAD ALREADY MADE MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION WITHOUT NOTING ANY ATTENUATION IN CRITICISM. DEPT OFFICIALS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN BLEAKER HAD GOC NOT TAKEN SUCH INITIATIVES.

4. UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON CHILE: UNAWARE THAT THE SECOND COMITE RESOLUTION ON CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA HAD ALREADY BEEN VOTED, HEITMANN APPEALED FOR NEGATIVE U.S. VOTE. OUR DELEGATION'S ABSTENTION ON PREVIOUS DAY WAS EXPLAINED IN TERMS OF THE PRECEDENT OF THE EARLIER VOTE OF THE UNCTAD GOVERNING BOARD AND OUR VIEW THAT WE COULD NOT EFFECTIVELY CHALLENGE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMPETENCE TO PRO- NOUNCE ITSELF ON SUCH MATTERS, ALTHOUGH WE FULLY AGREED THAT SUCH INITIATIVES HAD NO PLACE IN THAT FORUM. IN THIS AND OTHER RECENT UN VOTING, WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE GROWING NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS ON QUESTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING CHILE, PARTICULARLY THE RELUCTANCE OF LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS TO BE SWEEPED ALONG BY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ANTI-GOC PRESSURES. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, LATIN SOLIDARITY WOULD WEIGH MORE HEAVILY THAN US STANCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

5. VISA POLICY: HEITMANN EXPRESSED DISTRESS THAT US WAS PERMITTING ENTRY INTO US OF CHILEAN EXILES WHO WERE OPENLY ENGAGING IN ANTI-JUNTA ACTIVITIES. WE EXPLAINED THERE WAS NO LEGAL BASIS UNDER IMMIGRATION ACT FOR DENYING
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VISAS TO MANY CHILEAN EXILE APPLICANTS, AND THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES HERE, WHILE "UNFRIENDLY" TO GOC, WERE NOT IN THEMSELVES JUSTIFICATION FOR DENIAL OF ENTRY. MOREOVER, CONGRESSIONAL AND MEDIA ATMOSPHERE WAS SUCH THAT DENIAL OF VISAS, AS IN CASE OF MRS. ALLENDE, WOULD HAVE DONE MORE HARM THAN GOOD TO OUR MUTUAL OBJECTIVES. HEITMANN WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT A NUMBER OF CHILEAN EXILES HAD BEEN REFUSED ADMISSION TO US IN RECENT MONTHS INGERSOLL

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